

Family Literacy Grants

Background

In July 2004, the U.S. Department of Labor awarded Iowa a \$750,000 Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Section 503 Incentive Grant to fund innovative job-readiness programs. The grant, administered jointly by the Iowa Department of Education and Iowa Workforce Development (IWD), focuses on literacy as the essential foundation of success in employment, career growth, and economic self-sufficiency. In addition, the project concentrates on systematic change by establishing a literacy model that promotes achievement and success within the most basic and appropriate institution: *the family*.

The following paragraphs detail the four rounds of WIA Section 503 Incentive Grant funding Iowa has used to provide family literacy services through Iowa's community colleges.

Round 1

In August 2005, the Iowa Department of Education received \$507,094 to implement an innovative statewide family literacy plan and family literacy programming. Grants were initially awarded to nine Iowa community colleges.

Round 2 Part (A)

In July 2005, an incentive grant totalling \$560,267 was awarded to support new and existing programs. Five additional community colleges were awarded grants.

Round 2 (Part B)

All fourteen participating community colleges applied for continuations and received grant funds for FY 2007. This round focused on technology and career awareness efforts.

Round 3

The Iowa Department of Education received \$445,655 through the WIA Section 503 incentive grant. With a grant period ending June 2008, the focus of this round of funding is "The Working Family." Fourteen community colleges were able to apply for a continuation grant as well as a critical need grant for programs and communities where extenuating circumstances caused dire need.

Round 4

The State of Iowa is eligible to receive \$719,926 through the incentive grant in collaboration with Iowa Workforce Development. The period for use of funds will extend through June 2009. The focus of the fourth round of funding will be transitions of students to higher levels of education in an effort to promote academic success that will build the necessary foundation for employment. Activities will focus on assisting adults to move from ESL to ABE, GED and credit classes at the Community Colleges leading to higher level certificates, career program completion, and degrees. In addition, children in preschool through high school will be offered the opportunity to continue to build their awareness of careers and workforce skills.



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Iowa Department of Education
<http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/blogcategory/182/929/>

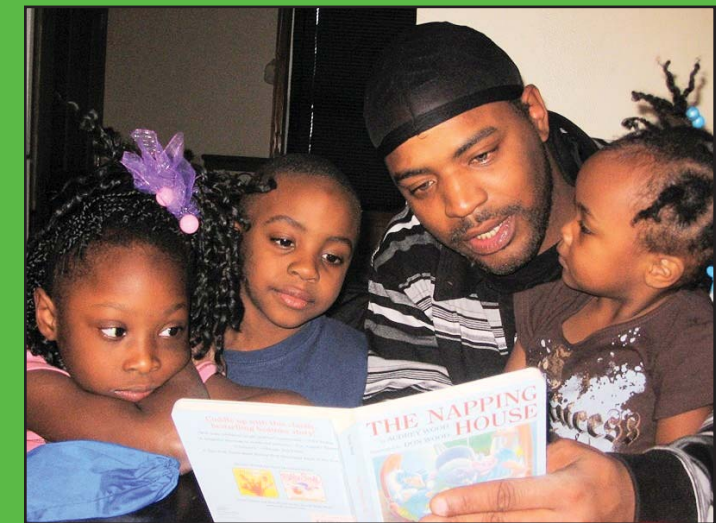
Iowa Literacy Resource Center
<http://www.readiowa.org/catalog02/ilrccatalog.html>



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Family LITERACY



***Iowa's Community College-Based
Family Literacy Programs***

Iowa's Community College-Based Family Literacy Project

Literacy is an individual's ability to read, write, speak in English, and compute and solve problems at levels of proficiency necessary to function on the job, in the family of the individual and in society.
-- Workforce Investment Act of 1998

The Workforce Investment Act takes a broader view of literacy than the ability to read. As information technology increasingly shapes our society, the skills needed for success in our society has extended well beyond reading.

In view of the fact that we must grow our workforce to address the projected labor and skill shortages, Iowa's public community colleges are committed to delivering literacy programs throughout the state and play a critical role in providing educational access to a diverse constituency.

Family Literacy is a term used to describe parents and children, or more broadly, adults and children learning together. The rationale underlying such work is that parents (and adults

in communities) are childrens' first teachers. Much learning occurs beyond traditional school settings, and learning is a lifelong process. Family literacy services are an intergenerational effort to break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy by enhancing the educational opportunities of all family members. Children are more likely to thrive in school when their parents take an active role in their education. Through family literacy services, parents are given the opportunity to learn to read to their children and provide encouragement. Parents, seeing the positive effect they can have on their childrens' education, are motivated to strengthen their own literacy skills and further their educational and employment goals.

While Iowa is recognized as having one of the highest literacy rates in the nation, there are many individuals in the state who need to attain English literacy. The need is particularly acute for populations that are new and growing within the state.



Family Literacy Project Objectives

- 1** To develop, direct, and coordinate a statewide family literacy and career information model for Iowa's community colleges.
- 2** To collaborate with the National Literacy Center to create and deliver staff development activities of the Family Literacy Model during the funding period.
- 3** To develop the research design and methodology to measure the impact of the Iowa Family Literacy Model during the funding period.

Iowa Family Literacy Program Model

- Interactive literacy activities between parents and children (Parents And Children Together - PACT).
- Education for parents in facilitating childrens' learning and becoming full partners in their education.
- Parent literacy training that leads to economic self-sufficiency and meets adults' stated goals.
- Age-appropriate education to prepare children for success in school and life experiences.

